cultivation. This species has long been cultivated in China and is called Fu Jung or Mu Fu Jung, meaning Woody Fu Jung, to distinguish it from *Nelumbo*, which is sometimes also called by this same name (Fig. 25).

This choice garden plant is especially common in Chengtu, the capital of Szechwan Province. Formerly the city wall around Chengtu was covered with *Hibiscus mutabilis*, so it is to this day also known as Jung Ch'eng, "City of Hibiscus." When this plant

FIG. 25. Cotton rose. From *Illustrated Investigations on the Identity of Plant Names.*

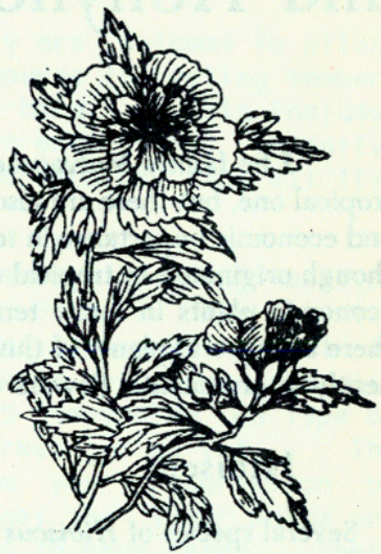

FIG. 26. Rose of China. From *Illustrated Investigations on the Identity of Plant Names.*

was in full bloom, the whole city appeared like a huge piece of pink satin when viewed from a distance, hence another pseudonym of the city is Chin Ch'eng, "City of Pink Silk."

Another species of *Hibiscus* of long cultivation is rose of China, or Chinese hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*), also a beautiful flowering shrub. The flower was originally red but in cultivation there are varieties with white and yellow flowers. The plant is generally called Fu Sang in Chinese botanical works (Fig. 26).

The name Fu Sang in ancient literature refers to a fabulous tree, which is apparently a plant different from *Hibiscus*, grown on

a faraway fairyland island in the eastern seas, behind which the sun rose. It is mentioned in *Li Sao* of the sixth century B.C., in Tung Fang-so's *Shi Chou Chi* of the second century B.C., and in other ancient works.

The tale of this fairyland is a part of the earliest Chinese folklore. This land, according to the legend, consisted of three fairy islands lying some distance from the coast of China in the eastern ocean. It relates that in very ancient times men had been able to reach these islands, but in later times the stormy sea never allowed a boat to approach them. This, says the old legend, is the land in which immortals live, the abode of those personages in Chinese mythology.

This is the land that is said to have a tree 20,000 feet high bearing fruit which makes men immortal. The Emperor Shih Huang-ti of the Ch'in dynasty (221–206 B.C.), the first unifier of China, dispatched an expedition of young men and maidens led by the Taoist priest Hsü Fu in 219 B.C. to seek this mysterious land of Fu Sang in search of this fruit of immortality. Gradually, as in the records of the Sui dynasty, this land was identified as Japan. As the legend goes, the expedition of Shih Huang-ti, made up of 3,000 boys and girls, never returned and it is said that they propagated into the Japanese race.

Besides Japan, this mysterious land has also been identified as Sachalin or even America. Some Western authors claim that the name Fu Sang refers to the agave tree, *Agave mexicana* of America, and have built up a hypothesis of the discovery of America by the Chinese. There are also said to be archeological traces of Asiatic visitors in Mexico, but these, even if they could be proved, apparently were casual explorations that were not followed up.

The old legend was used as proof by these authors that Hui Shên, a Buddhist monk, had discovered America a thousand years before Columbus. The theory was originated in 1764 by Deguignes but was disproved by Klaproth. Neumann raised it again in 1841 and the fantasy was seized by other authors, such as D'Eichthal and Paravey. The whole argument was summarized in a book by Leland in 1875, but Bretschneider (1876) proved in the following year the absurdity of the theory.

Some Chinese authors have credited the discovery to another Buddhist pilgrim, Fa Hsien. As is now well known, Fa Hsien